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IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1, 2 and 4 without prejudice.

Add new claim 8 as follows:

- -8. 1. A linear compression latch comprising:

a housing;

a lever handle rotatable by an operator between a first position and a second position,  
the lever handle being mounted in the housing;

a pawl mounted for substantially linear motion, the pawl being actuated by rotation of the  
lever handle and traveling substantially linearly between an open position to a closed position as  
the lever handle is rotated between the first position to second position;

wherein the pawl is mounted to travel between the open position along a first path and  
an intermediate position; and

wherein the pawl is mounted to travel in a second path in a direction substantially  
perpendicular to the first path between the intermediate position and the closed position. --

Claim 3, first line, delete "2" and substitute - - 8 - -.

Claim 5, first line, delete "4" and substitute - - 8 - -.

REMARKS

Claims 3, and 5-8 are pending in the present application.

The specification has been amended to correct a few minor typographical errors in the  
reference numerals, and to add a reference claiming the priority of the relevant provisional  
application.

The claims have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim  
applicants' invention to put the claims in better form for appeal. New claim 8 includes the  
subject matter of claims 1, 2 and 4. New independent claim 8 is fully supported by the